Catholic Theatre Conference

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IN THIS ISSUE:

November Play Festivals

Cross Country Circuit

Mrs. Wyatt's Broadway Reviews

Library Additions

Work Sheet: THE CHIMNEY CORNER

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM CTC

Christmas is a welcome feast for everyone. But there is one particular aspect of it which has special appeal for the dramatist. When we stop to consider the circumstances under which Christ chose to come to us, we realize all the more keenly what a drama lover He is. The Nativity story hasn't the savoir-faire of modern sophisticated comedies, it hasn't the gay flair of a musical, the bravado of a war story, or the romance of what we know as "a romance". Instead, God took all the elements of Drama, reduced them to their basic beauty, stripped of the accoutrements which tend to clutter the theme, and gave us a drama elemental in its simplicity, unadorned in its beauty and unsentimental in its poignancy.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy the coming Drama of Christ's Birth and that you may derive infinite merit in recalling its initial production.

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THANKS AGAIN

Again we are indebted to Mrs. Wyatt for her spirit of selflessness where CTC is concerned. Despite the fact that she sprained an ankle and a wrist, she remembered us with her delightful "thumbnail reviews", using the hunt and peck system of typing with one hand.

BOARD MEETING

On December 28th, Catholic Theatre Conference will have its board meeting in Cincinnati. While the meeting is called primarily for board members and regional chairman, ALL CTC members are invited and requested to attend if possible. The continued success of the Conference depends in large measure upon the success of this meeting.

If you are not in a position to attend but would like to have a voice in future CTC plans, please write us and let us know of anything which may be on your mind. The Conference is for you, is financed by you, and wants to hear what YOU have to say concerning its operations.

The Board Meeting will commence at 10 A.M. - at the home of

Harry P. Kramer

6882 Beechmont

Cincinnati, Ohio

~~120 Madison Avenue New York 16~~

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CROSS COUNTRY CIRCUIT

High Schools

In the last issue of The Calendar, we neglected to mention the October activities of two of our members. The Central Players of Central Catholic High School, Portland, Oregon, presented JANIE on October 26 & 27. The production was under the direction of Rev. Anthony Juliano, chairman of our Pacific Northwest Region.

The other member which we overlooked was St. Boniface High School, Cold Spring, Minn. On Oct. 26 & 27 their junior class presented the comedy ROOM FOR ONE MORE with Sister Mary Michaela, O.S.B., directing. For March, Sister Michaela plans to give an original three-act drama called DRUMS OF DESTINY in which all of the 78 members of the senior class will take part. The play is based on the life of the Indian maid, Catherine Tekawitha.

Sister Mary Stilla of Marycliff High School tells us that their latest production was SONG AT THE SCAFFOLD.

Stanbrook Hall, Duluth, Minn., chose the children's play THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER for the first week in December. Sister Mary Timothy, O.S.B., director.

Dec. 4, 5 & 6 are the production dates for TAKE CARE OF MY LITTLE GIRL at Immaculate Conception Academy, Davenport, Iowa. Sister Mary Angelita, B.V.M. will direct the Junior Cameos in this show.

For their November production the Girls' Central High School of Butte, Mont. gave LADIES IN RETIREMENT under the direction of Sister Mary Seraphine.

Colleges and Universities

Miss Jean Scharfenberg was the director of THE CURIOUS SAVAGE by the Delta Theta of Marylhurst College, Marylhurst, Oregon. The play which ran Nov. 21-23, was done arena style.

Sister Mary Xavier, B.V.M. also employed arena staging in the Clarke College production of TOVARICH, Nov. 16 & 17.

The Anselmian Abbey Players of St. Anselm's College, Manchester, N. H., opened their season with Agatha Christie's mystery TEN LITTLE INDIANS, Nov. 14 and 15. Chester Perotti, a former member of the Anselmian Abbey Players and a graduate of St. Anselm's, recently made his initial appearance on Robert Montgomery's Lucky Strike Theatre.

The Mask & Foil Club of Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, presented THE TROJAN WOMEN Nov. 7 & 8. On Dec. 18th the group will give CHRIST'S COMET by Christopher Hassall. Director, Miriam D. Gow, tells us that the play was first presented as a festival play in Canterbury Cathedral, England.

The Genesian Players of Mt. Marty College, Yankton, South Dakota, have chosen Dec. 7 and 8 as dates for an experimental production of Claudel's TIDINGS BROUGHT TO MARY. Sister Jeanette, O.S.B., has adapted the play so that it includes several choric reading sections interspersed with dialogue.

The Fordham University FM radio station, in conjunction with the BBC transcription service, broadcast THE FACE OF VIOLENCE by Bronowski on November 15. The one and a half hour show was produced by Douglas Cleverdon with music by Anthony Hopkins.

The freshman Ardeleons of the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minn., and the Johnny Players of St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn., combined their efforts on Carlotte Hastings' play HIGH GROUND Thanksgiving evening.

ARMS AND THE MAN was the Nov. 2 & 3 production of The Teresan Players of College of St. Teresa, Winona, Minnesota.

The College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minn., gave GOODBYE, MY FANCY on Nov. 10 & 11, under the direction of Mabel M. Frey.

Rev. James P. Caine, S.J. reports that The Players at the University of Detroit have had a full season thus far. On Oct. 23, 24, 25 their first production, THE BOY WITH A CART, was done with the Theatre Division of their new department of Communication Arts. Their next venture was to work with Father Daniel Lord on his original musical spectacle, LIGHT UP THE LAND. The musical, which had its premier Nov. 15-25, has an educational theme, stressing the fact that the success of American democracy has been due

(Cont'd. on page 6, col. 2)

FESTIVAL PLAY WORK SHEET

THE CHIMNEY CORNER by M. A. Atkinson Baker's Plays

Production: The play is in one act, written for five female characters, a serious drama calling for costumes. The playing time is thirty minutes.

The scene is a Belgian cottage living room far behind the firing lines back in 1916. It is a summer morning.

The Story: At the sound of an air plane the curtains open to reveal a simple living room in the home of Jeanne Libert and her two nieces whom she has raised from childhood. Simone, the elder, is about thirty and already a war widow. She is discovered standing at an upstage window through which both sunshine -- and war echoes seem to enter. Jacqueline, her sister, seventeen, has just stolen home from the nearby Convent where she attends school, because she has learned, through her companions, that her Aunt Jeanne is ill, and is acting very strangely at the Market Place. Simone and her friend Helene are both nursing at the German hospital. Simone is having her half-day off, and Helene has come to bring the soldiers mending done weekly by Simone and her Aunt Jeanne -- who must submit to such service in order to save themselves and their home. In reality all three women are members of a well organized underground group which is working desperately against the Germans. Of all this Jacqueline knows absolutely nothing.

When the play begins Aunt Jeanne is at the Market Place -- disguised, as usual, in a beggars garb -- acting the role of a demented old woman. This she does to cover the fact that she is sheltering an escaped Englishman in her attic loft. Who would suspect old Jeanne!

In the early part of the play we are interested in meeting an old Peasant Woman from a nearby town, who comes on a message to Jeanne Libert which she delivers somewhat in code language because of the presence of Jacqueline. She tells how the English officer's relatives will come for him on the following Saturday to take him home with them.

On the morning when Jacqueline ran away from school, she encountered a friendly German boy sitting a-top of his cart and she accepted his invitation to ride with him. Jacqueline entertained him with her usual prattle, and shared with him the knowledge of the wonderful hiding place in her Aunt's attic loft where she used to play when a child. Never dreaming of the harm her chatter might bring to her Aunt.

It later develops that the German soldiers come to investigate this "wonderful hide-out" but not, however, until Helene, the nurse, has given warning of their approach, nor before Jeanne has given her English prisoner safe conduct from her home. At the close of the play, when Jeanne hears the soldiers outside her door, she quickly dons her beggars disguise, hides Jacqueline close to the chimney corner telling her to act like her "little sick niece", then with a foolish, half hysterical cackling laugh, hobbles to the door to unlock it. A very quick accurately timed curtain leaves the spectators with a sense of satisfied security, because they know the prisoner has gone, and they realize Jeanne Libert will suffer no harm at the hands of these searchers since she mends their clothes and her daughter works in their hospital.

Evaluation: This play is a good festival offering for either high school or college levels. It offers very fine opportunities for interpretation, and has splendid emotional content. The characters are varied and definitely drawn. Jeanne may be played as a French woman if so desired. The plot is interesting, and you do witness a cross-section of life which is believable -- in this instance it happens to be a phase of peasant Belgian life.

The cast members will enjoy the research necessary for accuracy in stage setting, costume and people depicted in the play. Wooden shoes help much to set the characters and care must be given to the specific type of fireplace, since the title and many lines point up the Chimney Corner.

Submitted by Sister M. Charitas, C.S.J.
Academy of the Holy Angels, Minneapolis, Minnesota

BROADWAY REVIEWS
by

Mrs. Christopher Wyatt

AN EVENING WITH BEATRICE LILLIE AND REGINALD GARDINER: Nothing new but what is even better, a selection of old favourites - songs and monologues - from the topsy turvy repertoire of these two unique entertainers.

BERNARDINE: Mary Chase's affectionate study of a high school 'gang'.

DIAL "M" FOR MURDER: Maurice Evans, heading a small but brilliant cast, in the most courteous of thrillers.

MRS. MCTHING: The American Peter Pan with Miss Helen Hayes in one of her most charming roles.

MY DARLIN' AIDA: Verdi transplanted to Memphis, Tenn., 1860, offers the most beautiful sets and costumes, by Lemuel Ayers, seen in many years. The lyrics are weak but Hanya Holmes' choreography is strong and so is the cast, both vocally and dramatically. The musical score is shortened but unchanged.

NEW FACES OF 1952: Gay, amusing revue acted and composed by a clever young company.

PAL JOEY: Smart revival of O'Hara's sordid story for which Rodgers composed his delightful songs to dirty lyrics.

THE DEEP BLUE SEA: Margaret Sullivan in Terence Rattigan's latest drama of an intelligent woman's infatuation for a worthless man. Opens with a suicide.

THE FOURPOSTER: Vignettes of married life by de Hartog, written with tenderness and humor but in which Scene I lacks all sense of privacy. Have not seen it with present cast of Betty Fields and Burgess Meredith.

THE MALE ANIMAL: Elliott Nugent in the comedy he wrote with James Thurber which is still full of laughs.

THE MILLIONAIRESSE: Shaw's 1936 comedy has been turned into a rollicking farce by Katherine Hepburn and her London cast. (Limited engagement)

THE TIME OF THE CUCKOO: Arthur Laurents' comedy of morals in a Venetian pension in which moral standards are sadly confused. Well written, well directed and well played, the cast is uniformly excellent, particularly Shirley Booth.

WISH YOU WERE HERE: Large and lively musical about a camp in the Catskills which offers a real swimming pool, basket ball game, etc. Produced by Joshua Logan.

NOVEMBER PLAY FESTIVALS

Place: ACADEMY OF THE HOLY CHILD, Portland, Oregon.
Critic Judge: Margaret Barney
Date: November 22
Participants:
Immaculata Academy, Portland - FIESTA
Mt. Angel High, Mt. Angel, Oregon - SUBMERGED
St. Mary's Academy - A LITTLE LEARNING
Central Catholic High, Portland - AFRAID OF THE DARK
St. Mary's High, Medford, Ore. - HIGH WINDOW
Holy Name Academy, Seattle - WILL-O'-THE WISP
Academy of the Holy Child, Portland - THE ROMANCERS

Place: CLARKE COLLEGE, Dubuque, Iowa
Critic Judge: Anna Helen Reuter
Date: November 8
Participants:
Immaculate Conception Academy, Dubuque WHEN SHAKESPEARE'S LADIES MEET
Xavier High, Dyersville, Iowa - MOON-UP
St. Joseph Academy, Des Moines - THE PURPLE DOOR KNOB
Luana Consolidated School - THE VALIANT
Immaculate Conception Academy, Davenport - OVERTONES
Loras Academy, Dubuque - LUCIFER AT LARGE

Place: CRETIN HIGH SCHOOL, St. Paul, Minn.
Critic Judge: Walter Bamberger
Date: November 8
Participants:
St. Agnes High, St. Paul - FINDERS KEEPERS
St. Thomas Military Academy, St. Paul - THE UNSEEN HOST
Our Lady of Peace High, St. Paul - THE GHOST IN THE GREEN GOWN
Derham Hall High, St. Paul - PARADE AT DEVIL'S BRIDGE
St. Margaret's Academy, Minneapolis - SACRIFICE IN BROCADE
Cretin High School, St. Paul - AFRAID OF THE DARK
Academy of the Holy Angels, Minneapolis - THE CHIMNEY CORNER
St. Anthony High School, Minneapolis - SIX WHO PASS WHILE THE LENTILS BOIL
St. Joseph's Academy, St. Paul - XINGU
De La Salle High, Minneapolis - SUMMER COMES TO THE DIAMOND O
Convent of the Visitation, St. Paul - THE MAKER OF DREAMS

Place: INCARNATE WORD COLLEGE, San Antonio, Texas
Critic Judges: Lucille Todd
Carl Atkins
Janice Davis
Participants:
Providence High, San Antonio - FINDERS KEEPERS
Incarnate Word High, San Antonio - THE SPIDER
Dominican High, Galveston - SATURDAY MORNING
Ursuline Academy, San Antonio - A MIRACLE AT BLAISE
Our Lady of Victory, Fort Worth - WHITE QUEEN, RED QUEEN
St. Anthony's High, Beaumont - HIGH WINDOW
Mt. Carmel Academy, Fort Worth - IDOLS
St. Mary's High, Orange - OVERTONES
St. Mary's, Taylor - SENIOR FREEDOM
St. Agnes Academy, Houston - WHEN THE WHIRLWIND BLOWS
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Dallas - ARIA DA CAPO
Incarnate Word Academy, Corpus Christi THE SUMMONS OF SARIEL
Bishop Byrne High, Port Arthur - NO GREATER LOVE

Place: NAZARETH COLLEGE, Louisville, Ky.
Date: November 15
Participants:
Our Lady of Cincinnati, Ohio - WHITE IRIS
St. Catherine, Springfield, Ky. - DISMAS DID IT
St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana - TO STRONG THINGS
Nazareth College, Louisville - THE SAUSAGE MAKERS INTERLUDE
Mount St. Joseph on the Ohio - GAMMER BURTON'S NEEDLE
Bellarmine College - LUCIFER AT LARGE
Nazareth College, Nazareth, Ky. - THE CHIMNEY CORNER

Place: CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Critic Judge: Rev. Karl Schroeder

Date: November 11
Participants:
Cathedral High, Sioux Falls, LIFE WITH MOTHER
St. Mary's, Dell Rapids - WHERE LOVE IS
St. Agatha High, Howard - PINK AND PATCHES
Immaculate Conception, Stephan - THE TRUE IN HEART
St. Martin's, Sturgis - THE LORD'S PRAYER
Mount Marty High, Yankton - OVER THE TEACUPS
St. Paul's, Marty - THE HILLS OF EIRE

Place: LOYOLA ACADEMY, Chicago
Critic Judge: Rev. Robert Johnston, SJ
Date: November 28, 29, 30
Participants
St. Francis Academy - IDOLS
Convent of the Sacred Heart - LETTERS TO LUCERNE
Loretto High (Englewood) - LADIES IN RETIREMENT
Marywood - PYGMALION
Mallinkrodt High - LADIES IN RETIREMENT
Josephinum High - CLAUDIA, PILATE'S DAUGHTER
St. Scholastica Academy - ARIA DA CAPO
St. Elizabeth High - SPECIAL GUEST
Trinity High - THE ROMANCERS
Leo High - MINOR MIRACLE
Resurrection High - BOND BETWEEN
St. Michael Central High - BIRTHDAY PARTY
Sacred Heart Academy - THE SUMMONS OF SARIEL
The Immaculata - JACOB COMES HOME
Loyola Academy - THE MONKEY'S PAW
Providence High - NINE TILL SIX
Alvernia High - MEDEA
St. Mel High - HAMLET
Academy of Our Lady (Longwood) - PARTING AT IMSDORF
Loretto Academy, Woodlawn - OUR DEAREST POSSESSION
St. Ignatius High - ON BORROWED TIME

Library Additions

ON WITH THE MOTLEY by Stuart Ready. A three-act comedy for women. Was recently produced for the first time in U.S. by Sister Charitas of Academy of the Holy Angels, Minneapolis. Baker Publishers.

THE DESIRED OF ALL NATIONS by George Benson Hewetson. A Drama of the Nativity in three acts with prologue. For information on rights, etc., write Service Bureau.

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Cross Country Circuit
(Cont'd. from page 2)

to America's emphasis on education. For December 11, 12, 13, the Detroit University Players will give Moliere's THE AFFECTED YOUNG LADIES.

Community

The Carroll Club Little Theatre Group, N.Y.C. gave five performances of THE HEIRESS during November. Jack Fogarty directed the production.

The St. Joan of Arc Theatre Guild of Jackson Heights, N.Y., recently did the farce comedy ROOM SERVICE under the direction of Wm. J. Hallahan.

The St. Bernard Players of Madison, Wis. was recently organized by Rev. Raymond Klaas. Reports show us that their season has gotten off to a fine start. Their first production, ANGEL STREET, was under the direction of Helen M. Schumacher. For a Christmas program they will give THE LEGEND OF THE JUGGLER and THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT, with an interlude of Christmas Carols. The Carollers plan to extend their entertainment to a tour of the city's hospitals.

LIBRARY ETIQUETTE

Operating a library by mail is not the most desirable setup in the world. But Joseph Rice, Sister M. Ruth, IHM, and Immaculate Heart College students have done an admirable job of establishing our library on a smooth working basis. It has taken much effort on their parts, and we are all truly grateful.

Now, may we ask that you do your part? For the sake of our librarians and most particularly for our fellow members, please return scripts within the allotted three weeks. In that way, we will be able to serve, not the few but the many. Thank you.

MADWOMAN OF CHAILLOT

The Queen's Players of Austin, Minn. have made available to Conference members their packaged publicity for THE MADWOMAN OF CHAILLOT, as well as suggestions for musical accompaniment to the play. If you are interested in borrowing same, please contact the service bureau.

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Have you sent us news of your activities?
If not, please do so right away, won't you?